

## Second Annual Anne d'Harnoncourt Symposium

Friday, October 1 and Saturday, October 2

Registration required for Saturday:

[www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html](http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html)

The symposium is the Second Annual Anne d'Harnoncourt Symposium, in honor of the late director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The symposium begins on Friday evening with the keynote address, to be given by Dr. Peter Conn, the Vartan Gregorian Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and author, most recently, of *The American 1930s: A Literary History* (2008). Following the keynote address is the exhibition opening reception, in both the Kamin and Kroiz Galleries.

On Saturday the symposium continues with papers by leading scholars from various disciplines on a range of topics raised by the exhibition. The symposium will conclude with a visit to Hedgerow Theatre for dinner and a performance of a dramatic adaptation of Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy*.

### Wharton Esherick Museum

1520 Horseshoe Trail, Malvern, PA

610.644.5822, [www.whartonesherickmuseum.org](http://www.whartonesherickmuseum.org)

The Wharton Esherick Museum, the Chester County studio and residence of Wharton Esherick, is a National Historic Landmark for Architecture.

### Hedgerow Theatre

64 Rose Valley Road, Media, PA

610.565.4211, [www.hedgerowtheatre.org](http://www.hedgerowtheatre.org)

*An American Tragedy*: September 23-October 10

Hedgerow Theatre, started in 1923 by visionary director/actor Jasper Deeter, was a crucible of modern theater in Philadelphia. Today Producing Artistic Director Penelope Reed follows in Deeter's footsteps.

### Philadelphia Museum of Art

Gallery 119, American Art, first floor

Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 26th Street, Philadelphia, PA

215.763.8100, [philamuseum.org](http://philamuseum.org)

In honor of the exhibition and symposium *Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern*, the Philadelphia Museum of Art has installed several superb examples of Wharton Esherick's furniture from their collection of American studio craft.

Exhibition: September 7, 2010-February 13, 2011

Kamin Gallery, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center  
3420 Walnut Street, first floor, Philadelphia, PA  
and

Kroiz Gallery of the Architectural Archives  
Lower Level of the Fisher Fine Arts Library  
220 South 34th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Symposium: October 1-2, 2010

University of Pennsylvania  
Friday Evening Keynote Address:  
Hall of Flags, Houston Hall, 3417 Spruce Street  
Saturday Symposium Sessions:  
Annenberg School for Communication  
3620 Walnut Street, Room 110

For up-to-date programming and events information visit:  
[www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html](http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html)

For more information, or to schedule special group tours,  
please contact Lynne Farrington  
215.746.5828 or [lynne@pobox.upenn.edu](mailto:lynne@pobox.upenn.edu)

Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

University of Pennsylvania

3420 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104-6206



*Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern* has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage through the Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative; the David A. and Helen P. Horn Charitable Trust; John and Robyn Horn; Center for American Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Department of Art History, University of Pennsylvania; and University of Pennsylvania Libraries.

Image credits: Photograph of Wharton Esherick at his trestle table, ca. 1931. Wharton Esherick, *Harvesting*, 1927. Woodcut, 6.125" x 7.5".



# WHARTON ESHERICK AND THE BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN MODERN



# WHARTON ESHERICK AND THE BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN MODERN

On exhibition: September 7, 2010-February 13, 2011

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the Architectural Archives at the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the Wharton Esherick Museum (Paoli, PA) and Hedgerow Theatre (Rose Valley, PA), announce an exhibition and symposium on Wharton Esherick, an artist whose distinctive synthesis of art, theater, dance, and design forged an early and compelling example of American Modernism.

*Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern*, the first major examination of Esherick's work and artistic development in over fifty years, explores Esherick's artistic evolution during the early decades of the twentieth century, culminating in the exhibition of his work as part of the Pennsylvania Hill House at the 1940 World's Fair in New York City.

Trained as an illustrator and painter, experienced in modern theater and dance, well exposed to new ideas in philosophy, politics, and literature, Esherick experimented with wood carving and printmaking, laying the foundations for his emergence as an artist of remarkable range. He produced paintings and woodblock prints, set designs, furniture, and architecture.

The **Kamin Gallery** section of the exhibition explores the social, political, and artistic milieu of Esherick in the 1920s and 1930s and illuminates many of the institutions and relationships that made the American modernist movement possible. While the Kamin Gallery creates a context for Esherick's work, the **Kroiz Gallery** section of the exhibition explores Esherick's evolution as an artist in wood during this period. The exhibition will bring together a range of materials, from books, manuscripts, and photographs to prints, sculpture, and furniture, belonging to both the participating institutions and other collections.

## Events & Programs

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|-------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| September 7             | <b>Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern</b><br>Exhibition opens to the public<br>Kamin and Kroiz Galleries  | November 6   | <b>A Day With Wharton Esherick</b><br>10:30 am-noon<br>Special tour of the exhibition by guest curator Mark Sfirri<br>Tour begins in the Kamin Gallery   |
| September 23-October 10 | <b>An American Tragedy</b><br>Hedgerow Theatre, Media, PA<br>Pre-performance talks will be given an hour before each performance   | 2-6 pm       | <b>Special bus tour of the Wharton Esherick Museum</b><br>Leaving from the University of Pennsylvania campus<br>Cost: \$15, Limited to 20<br>Reservations and payment must be made in advance. For more information or to make a reservation, please call the Architectural Archives (215.898.8323) or email Nancy Thorne (nthorne@design.upenn.edu) |
| October 1               | <b>Second Annual Anne d'Harnoncourt Symposium</b><br>2-4 pm<br><b>Pre-conference roundtable for collectors</b><br>Meyerson Conference Center<br>2nd floor, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center  | December 4   | <b>Christmas with Wharton Esherick</b><br>10:30 am-noon<br>Special tour of the exhibition by guest curator Roberta A. Mayer<br>Tour begins in the Kamin Gallery  |
|                         | 4-4:45 pm<br><b>Book signing with Mansfield Bascom</b> author of <i>Wharton Esherick: The Journey of a Creative Mind</i> (2010)<br>Hall of Flags, Houston Hall   | 1-5 pm       | <b>Special bus tour of the Wharton Esherick Museum</b><br>Leaving from the University of Pennsylvania campus<br>Cost: \$15, Limited to 20<br>Reservations and payment must be made in advance. For more information or to make a reservation, please call the Architectural Archives (215.898.8323) or email Nancy Thorne (nthorne@design.upenn.edu) |
|                         | 5:30 pm<br><b>Welcome and Keynote Address</b><br>Hall of Flags, Houston Hall   | January 21   | <b>Exemplar in Wood: Wharton Esherick and the Emergence of the Studio Furnituremaker</b><br>6:30 pm<br>Lecture by Edward S. Cooke, Jr., Charles F. Montgomery Professor of American Decorative Arts, History of Art, Yale University.<br>Location: TBA   |
|                         | 7 pm<br><b>Exhibition Opening Reception</b><br>Kamin Gallery, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library Center and Kroiz Gallery of the Architectural Archives   | late January | <b>Theater Discussion Panel</b><br>Date & Location: TBA  |
| October 2               | <b>Second Annual Anne d'Harnoncourt Symposium</b><br>Registration required:<br><a href="http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html">www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html</a>  | February 11  | <b>Esherick and Dance</b><br>3-4:30 pm<br>Special tour of the exhibition by Wharton Esherick Museum curator Paul Eisenhauer<br>Tour begins in the Kamin Gallery  |
|                         | 9 am-4 pm<br><b>Symposium Sessions</b><br>Annenberg School for Communication<br>3620 Walnut Street, Room 110, Philadelphia PA  | February 13  | <b>Wharton Esherick and the Birth of the American Modern</b><br>Exhibition closes to the public<br>Kamin and Kroiz Galleries   |
|                         | 5-11 pm<br><b>Special Symposium Dinner and Performance</b><br><i>An American Tragedy</i> , at Hedgerow Theatre   |              |  |
| October 3               | <b>Tour of the Wharton Esherick Museum</b><br>10 am-1 pm<br>Special post-symposium tour of the Wharton Esherick Museum for those symposium participants interested in visiting the museum.<br>Registration required:<br><a href="http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html">www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/esherick.html</a> |              |  |
| October 9               | <b>History of Rose Valley</b><br>2-5 pm<br>Slideshow presentation and walking tour by Morris Potter and Paula Healy. Meet at Hedgerow Theatre, rain or shine; wear your walking shoes and be prepared for some rough terrain<br>Cost: \$15, Limited to 30  |              |  |
| October 16              | <b>Letterpress Improv Workshop with Robin McDowell</b><br>1-4 pm<br>Common Press letterpress room, Morgan Building, University of Pennsylvania, 205 South 34th Street, Philadelphia, PA<br>Cost: \$10 (for materials), Limited to 10   |              |  |

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